



**The Guild of  
Psychotherapists**

47 Nelson Square, SE1 0Q  
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www.guildofpsychotherapists.org.uk

**The Guild Winter Conference, Saturday 11 February 2012**

# Lost in Translation

Without communication, there could be no psychotherapy. But what gets “lost in translation” from one person to another? How much do we misinterpret as a result of our differences – and similarities – whether these are about culture, language or experience?

At this year’s Winter Conference, three speakers will address these questions from diverse perspectives.

George Craig is the translator of Samuel Beckett’s letters in French. His talk explores the effects of venturing into another language: from dabbling to total immersion.

Ali Zarbafi is a founder member of the Multi-lingual Psychotherapy Centre who has worked with refugees for many years. He will examine what happens when one of the therapeutic pair is using a second language, particularly in the counter-transference.

Hephzibah Kaplan is Director (and Founder Member) of the London Art Therapy Centre. Her talk will look at what may be lost and found in art therapy, which might in conventional therapy have been “lost in translation.”

CPD certificates will be issued.

## Programme

- 10** Coffee and registration
- 10.30** George Craig – “Otherness”
- 11.20** Ali Zarbafi – “Being Met: Counter-transference and Language in Clinical Space”
- 12.10** Coffee
- 12.30** Hephzibah Kaplan – “Lost in Translation”. Please bring some coloured pencils, felt pens or crayons for a short art therapy exercise.
- 13.20** Lunch in the Bosanquet Room

Admission is free, but there will be the chance to make a voluntary contribution. Since last year’s event was oversubscribed, please reserve your place by contacting the Guild Office (0207-401-3260 or admin@guildofpsychotherapists.org.uk).

The conference will provide an opportunity to consider issues of difference which lie at the heart of our work, and time to catch up with colleagues, other members and trainees.



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## Biographical Details of Speakers

**George Craig** is the translator of Samuel Beckett's letters in French. He has a strong interest in psychoanalytic literature and he has been published in the *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*. He has also taught courses on the importance of psychoanalysis to modern European thought.

**Hephzibah Kaplan** is an Art Therapist and Psychotherapy Supervisor with many years experience in adult mental health. She is Director of the London Art Therapy Centre, where psychotherapists and bodywork therapists work alongside art therapists, enriching interdisciplinary thinking and practice.

**Ali Zarbafi** has been practising as a psycho-analytic psychotherapist since 1993 and is currently a member of the London Centre for Psychotherapy. Ali is Anglo-Iranian and speaks Farsi and English. He was a founder member of the Multi-lingual Psychotherapy Centre in 1998. The Multi-lingual Psychotherapy Centre has organised 34 lectures and 3 conferences on the subject of multi-lingualism since its inception. Ali has worked with refugees for many years and has run training workshops for professionals exploring the refugee experience.

Ali is also a practising social dreamer and

co-authored a book on the subject in 2009. "Counter-transference is the emotional meeting place between patient and therapist from which the therapist may have a subtle sense of the patient's inner struggles. Language on the other hand is full of historical and cultural assumptions which act as a filter to individual expression and meaning. Both Jung and Freud believed that the unconscious was a given, irrespective of culture or language and the clinician's task was to keep a keen eye on this aspect of the individual's presentation. It is generally thought that the most powerful emotional relationship to language is through the language of the mother and that any second language is a way in which one gains distance from the mother tongue. This distance is both creative and obstructive. Many immigrant or refugee patients we see in this country will not be speaking to us in their mother tongue but in learnt English unless one employs an interpreter. However if we choose to see a patient in their second language because we also speak that language then we are faced with speaking in a language in which we were not trained or generally analysed in as psychotherapists. As psychotherapists we are not practising in our professional language but a second language. What are the difficulties and possibilities in this and how is counter-transference useful as a way of bridging these cultural and linguistic landscapes?"